IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 16-17, 19, 22, 25-26 and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 3, 9, 13, 15 and 28 as follows.

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended): An isolated polynucleotide encoding [a polypeptide of claim 1] an isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, and

b) a naturally occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

4. (Original): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 2.

5. (Currently Amended): An isolated polynucleotide of claim 4 [selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:42, and SEQ ID NO:44] comprising SEQ ID NO:30.

6. (Original): A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

7. (Original): A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 6.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended): A method for producing [a polypeptide of claim 1] an isolated polypeptide, said polypetide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, and

b) a naturally occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8,

the method comprising:

[a] i) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding [the polypeptide of claim 1] the polypeptide,

and

[b] ii) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended): An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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a) a polynucleotide sequence [selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:42, and SEQ ID NO:44] comprising SEQ ID NO:30,

b) a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to a polynucleotide sequence [selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ

ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:42, and SEQ ID NO:44] comprising SEQ ID NO:30,

c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a),

d) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to b), and

e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

13. (Original): A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 11, the method comprising:

a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

15. (Original): A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 11, the method comprising:

a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

16-17, 19, 22, 25-26. (Canceled)

28. (Original)A method for assessing toxicity of a test compound, said method comprising:

a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound;

b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 11 under conditions whereby a

specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 11 or fragment thereof;

c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex; and

d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample, wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.